St. Joseph's Monthly

Summer 2017



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A Letter from Ms. Latham



Dear Parents and Guardians.

Time goes by so very quickly. It seems as if it were just yesterday that the Class of 2018 was getting ready for their Freshmen Orientation, and now they are about to begin their Senior Year. It is a gentle reminder to us all that the time we spend each day is very important; and students should make the most of each day they spend at school.

I am excited and honored to be starting my second year as principal of St. Joseph High School. I will continue to serve our students, staff, parents, and community to the best of my ability, in an effort to continue building an environment of friendship, academic excellence, and personal virtue.

Already, many students are involved in school activities: practicing with fall teams, getting in shape in our Fitness Area, preparing for Freshmen Orientation, rehearsing with our speech team or meeting with their clubs. With the launch of our new iPad 1:1 program, teachers are using the innovative tools of Apple Classroom to improve their classes, and students are on track for an exciting year of learning.

We have also launched a new official school store, packed with hoodies, tees, polos, shorts and more through Sideline Store. Inside this newsletter you can find a coupon code that will get you a 15% discount on hoodies until the end of September!

~ Ms. Caroline Latham, Principal









Teachers Keep Learning: Professional Development at SJHS

Did you know that a Catholic priest, Fr. Georges Lemaître, was the first scientist to propose the hypothesis of the Big Bang as the origin of the universe? Or that friar, abbot and scientist Gregor Mendel is considered the father of modern genetics? Perhaps you have heard that Dr. Jerome Lejeune, who discovered Trisomy 21, the genetic mutation that causes Downs Syndrome. and who dedicated his entire career to caring and advocating for his Downs patients, is now on the path to canonization as a saint?

Physics and Ancient Faith, Thomistic Evolution in the Light of Faith, The Great Partnership: Science, Religion and the Search for Meaning, and various excerpts from the writings of Pope St. John Paul II.

The workshops that the teachers attended involved Socratic discussions of these readings, hands-on lab work at St. Mary's Dominican High School, and lectures by some of the authors of the books the attendees had read. Each team of teachers from different schools also submitted lesson plans on topics relating to the seminar's focus on the integration of religion and science, and had the opportunity to workshop them, to receive critiques and critique those submitted by other teams.

The activities the teachers participated in gave them lots of ideas about how to more deeply integrate the study of science and religion at St. Joseph's. For example, being able to explain to students that the Bible does not have to be taken literally to still be considered true, and that God exists outside the realm of space and time and therefore is not subject to natural laws, although He is the creator of them, can go a long way toward helping students develop a deeper appreciation for the harmony between faith and reason that can exist for a faithful Christian.

Ms. Barron, Mr. Martin and Ms. Paris had some leisure time, in which they were able to tour Louisiana bayous, learning about Cajun culture and meeting some local residents (alligators and wild boars!) They also got to visit the French Quarter and the WWII museum, go on a ghost hunt, and try beignets at the world famous Cafe Du Monde.

Science and Religion Seminar 2017

Many people are unaware of the rich and complex history of the relationship between science and faith in Christianity, and the way in which a passion for truth and love for the beauty of the created universe opened hundreds of faith-filled scientists up to some of the most important discoveries of all time.

SJHS science teacher Ms. Amy Barron explains, "I often come across students who think that you can only believe in one or the other, science or religion, but not both."

This summer, two science teachers, Ms. Barron and Mr. Derek Martin, as well as one religion teacher, Ms. Chantee Paris, has the opportunity to attend a one week long Science and Religion seminar held at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, LA, and organized by the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame.

Before attending, all attendees completed extensive readings from the works of Galileo, and books such as Particles of Faith: A Catholic Guide to Navigating Science, Modern









Teachers Keep Learning: Professional Development at SJHS

CollegeBoard Advanced Placement Program



AP SUMMER INSTITUTE

This summer, Ms. Turman and Ms. Maldonado attended the AP Summer Institute in English Literature and Composition. The program was structured around a social justice framework, in which teachers had the opportunity to discuss culturally relevant pedagogies, and to learn the nuts and bolts of the AP exam.

The teachers tried out lots of sample activities, many of which Ms. Turman plans to further develop and use in the classroom this year. She also took away some great ways to structure teaching and learning for the entire English Department, including specific protocols the department is going to follow, which will equip our students to engage in deeper analysis and understanding.

The teachers formed four groups, which each developed and taught a 30-minute lesson. Ms. Turman's group taught a lesson linking two of the books they had read for the institute, Ta-Nehisi Coates' Between the World and Me and Angie Thomas' The Hate

"It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others...One ever feels his twoness, - an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder."

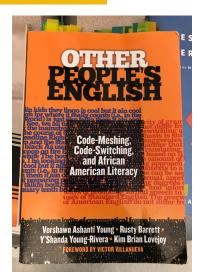
From The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois

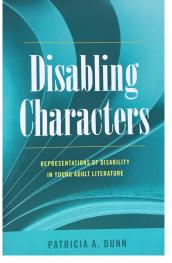
U Give with W.E.B. DuBois' theory of Double Consciousness.

This year, most of the teachers attending the institute were from NYC, but Ms. Turman and Ms. Maldonado also met one teacher from an international school in St. Petersburg, Russia and another who teaches on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in northwest Montana, home of the Blackfeet Nation, on of the ten biggest tribes in the United States.

Ms. Turman established connections with many of the teachers who attended, and they are planning ways for their students to interact in future!







Teachers Keep Learning: Professional Development at SJHS







This year the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC invited educators to come together for 5 days, from July 10-14th, to discuss strategies for generating dialogue about race within educational settings.

During the week, attendees had the opportunity to participate in lectures by experts in the fields of education, critical race studies, and child development. Situated in the beautiful recently opened NMAAHC, these lectures were coupled with museum gallery activities and small group discussions to practice pedagogy techniques.

Ms. Elizabeth Peralta and Ms. Chantee Paris attended this Professional Learning Event. Attendees of all racial backgrounds discussed how racism impacted them personally, and how and when they came to realize they had a racial identity.

The learned about how children pick up racial bias from authority figures, and how to address this when it arises in an academic context. They studied the characteristics of whiteness as a category of identity, considered the realities of implicit bias even among people of color, and discussed the importance of self-care when experiencing the effects of racism in society. For Ms. Peralta, who worked at the museum as an intern before it opened, returning for the second time



"When we give in to our fears of the other because he or she is of a race different from ourselves...we fail to heed the command of the Prophet Amos: 'Seek good and not evil, that you may live; then truly will the Lord... be with you as you claim!... Then let justice surge like water, and goodness like an unfailing stream.' (Amos 5:14,24)" - "Brothers and Sisters to Us": US Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter on Racism, 1979.

as an educator (the first being last year's SJHS field trip to the museum) provided an opportunity to reconnect with her mentors at the museum, to deepen her own learning, and to consider the ways that racism impacts the students she works with at SJHS. Ms. Paris saw many connections to the lessons on social sin that she has with her religion students at SJHS. The idea of social sin derives from God's covenants with Israel in the Old Testament — when the society as a

whole came to tolerate a particular evil such as oppression of the poor, of orphans, widows and immigrants, God would send a prophet, such as Amos, Jeremiah and Isaiah, who would remind the people of their collective infidelity to God and call them back to the path of justice and mercy.

Ms. Peralta and Ms. Paris hope to be able to take the students to the museum for longer in future - ideally for a week long camp, so they could have a chance to experience the entire museum and participate in the educational programs there.

Connections they made at the conference are already leading to future PD workshops at SJHS with instructors from the NMAAHC, which will serve to help us understand race and racism in our own educational context.



"Then let justice surge like water" (Amos 5:24) Conference on Race in the Classroom at the NMAAHC

Special Feature: New Teachers!



"I hope to provide the young women at SJHS with the crucial tools they

will need once they leave home, by teaching them about accounting and financial literacy this year."

I took this position at SJHS because it was the perfect next step for my career and goals, such as starting a nonprofit in the Bronx teaching middle schools and high school students financial literacy and civic engagement. My professional background includes starting a virtual accounting firm and working with clients on their bookkeeping and financial

analysis, and providing controller and CFO services. I have worked in Corporate Finance as a Financial Controller and Accounting Manager at real estate firms, international timeshares, and my favorite position was with Sesame Workshop (a nonprofit and parent company of Sesame Street) where I did Project based finance for initiatives based both domestically and internationally that boost children's education.

~ Ms. Daisy Pinero, Accounting and Financial Literacy I come to SJHS after teaching at the Churchill School and Center, a private school for students with language-based learning disabilities. With a BS in Pure Math from Brooklyn College and an MS in Math from Touro College, I am excited to bring my passion for mathematics to the young women of SJHS. I look forward to getting to know the students here, and also hope to share my passion for origami with them by starting an Origami club. This year I will be teaching Algebra 2, Geometry and Statistics. There are very few women working in science, technology and math, and I hope to influence our girls to consider entering into one of these fields!

~ Ms. Alex Hu, Mathematics

"I hope my students will discover a connection between math and the real world, gaining confidence in doing math along the way!"





In coming to SJHS this year, I was seeking a place where I could experience a deeper unity between my faith, my studies as a historian, and my work as an educator. Learning about SJHS and visiting the school, I was very drawn to the school's focus on empowering and educating diverse young women, and to the motto of the Sisters of St. Joseph: "Uniting all in God's love."

I think that the desire to educate can be more fully brought to fulfillment within a loving community of faith. In my short time here, I have already met many educators and administrators who embody this in their daily actions, and I look forward to entering more fully into this community in the weeks and months to come.

I come to SJHS after teaching history and social studies for five years at a public

"In studying history, we can become aware of the subtleties that may otherwise escape our attention because of the vastness of time and space. I hope to help my students begin to see these for themselves."

middle school in Midwood, Queens. I received a BA in History and a BA in Political Science from St. Francis College, and then went on to receive a M.S. in Education at LIU-Brooklyn. Currently I am working on a PhD in World History at St. John's University in Oueens.

As a teacher, I enjoy presenting information that I think is important and explaining why, in an effort to surprise students with their own capacity to deepen their understanding of in a topic. I love when, as a community of learners in the classroom, we have the chance to share in the experience of becoming interested in something fascinating.

Here at St. Joseph's I will be teaching two sections of 9th grade Global History, and three sections of 12th grade Government and Economics. In Global, I hope to introduce the world to my students: different cultures, people, and ideas, all through the lens of history - the collection of texts and documents written down over the centuries and passed on to us today.

In Government and Economics, we will look at the structures of city, state, and federal government, asking what it means to participate in governance at all of these levels, and examining laws and policies for conduct in NYC. We will also study different economic systems, how they have formed, how they work, and how they contribute or fail to contribute to individual and social human flourishing. Given that I am shifting from middle school to high school teaching, I am looking forward to a deeper maturity among my students, and to the opportunity to delve deeper into topics and questions.

While at St. Joseph's, I also hope to start up a Model U.N. club. Model U.N. is a fun activity and an excellent way for students to be introduced to the complex workings of international politics, diplomacy, strategy and to improve their public speaking skills. I am excited for our students to have the opportunity to debate and compete with other students from across the city and country.

~ Mr. Dennis Kallo, Global 9, Government and Economics 12

Special Feature: New Teachers! (continued)



"To my new students and their parents, I want to say thank you for welcoming me to SJHS! I've never looked forward to a school year as much as I have this one. I think it's going to be a great year."

As a new teacher at SJHS, I'm excited to get to know the students, to learn to feel at home in my new surroundings, to make friends with the faculty and staff, and to continually grow to be a more effective teacher. I think I'll also enjoy working in Downtown Brooklyn, where there seems to be plenty to do and see (although it's probably dangerous for me to be working so close to places like Shake Shack and the Dekalb Market Hall).

Most recently I taught Religion for five years at St. Joseph bythe-Sea High School in Staten Island. Prior to that I studied Theology & Christian Ministry at Franciscan University of Steubenville, in eastern Ohio. Here at SJHS, I'll be teaching Religion 10 and Religion 12, and I'll have a 9th-grade homeroom.

Since at SJHS we're blessed to have students from an array of different religious backgrounds, we're going to especially highlight those things that we all have in common, while learning to appreciate and value the things that make us each unique. More than anything, though, I hope I can help my students to believe that they are loved, and to learn how to give that love back to other people through service.

"I hope that I can help my students to believe that they are loved, and to learn how to give that love back to other people through service."

One of my favorite hobbies is cooking, so this year I look forward to being involved in the Cooking Club. And, eventually, if there's enough interest, I'd love to start a comedy club! My favorite aspect of teaching, by far, is the time I spend in the classroom with my students, and building relationships with them as we learn from each other. They're smart, funny, and insightful, and they make every day into something new and exciting.

~ Mr. Tim Sennett, Religion 10 and 12

"I truly believe that teamwork makes the dream work. If we are all working together for progress, there is no obstacle too big for us to overcome."





"Be open to the new! Take deep breaths (lots of them!). Know you'll be OKAY, and know that it's OKAY to make mistakes. It's alright to get lost along the journey so long as you keep walking. I look forward to walking with you."

I'm so excited to be working with high school students. I love the deep thoughts and conversations they have. This is such a great time for self-discovery!

I previously worked at an all-boys Latino Middle School and loved being able to engage with the families. Many knew very little English and the experience of speaking with them in their native tongue was a joy for both of us. When I decided to move to New York I knew I needed to be in a school where I could continue to have experiences with families and St. Joseph seemed the perfect place!

I come from a little of everywhere. I was born in Providence, RI, but have moved around a lot, especially in the last 10 years. I got my BA degrees in Theology, Philosophy, and Spanish from the University of Portland. There I also learned a great deal from the Congregation of the Holy Cross about integrating Catholic Intellectual life and various cultures.

I will be teaching Religion 9 and 10 and Writing 9 and 10. I plan to participate in many art, music, and dance projects this year. Students can hope to learn a lot of crossover between religion and their daily lives, especially through the areas of art and music.

~ Ms. Jessie Brown, Religion 9 and 10 Writing 9 and 10

I was drawn to teaching English at SJHS by the students. Since moving to New York, I have worked in more administrative capacities. When I learned about the work being done at SJHS and how wonderful the students are, I knew it was the place for me.

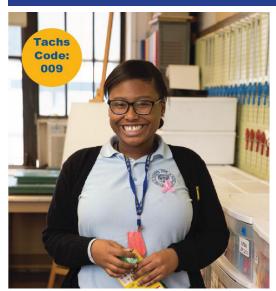
I'm originally from St. Louis, Mo. I received a BS in Information Technology from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a BA in Educational Studies with a focus on Cultural Education. Along the way, I worked on independent films, worked for both nonprofit and corporate organizations, co-founded an arts nonprofit, and managed over 30 international middle and high school students.

I will be teaching all of English 10, two sections of Writing 9, and one section of English 9. I will also be the facilitator for The Moth Storytelling Team. My hope is that students learn many ways to tell and analyze stories. I am especially excited for our 9th grade writing class on poetry and performance!

What I enjoy the most is seeing all the ways the students grow year after year. For new students and families (and staff like me), I truly believe that teamwork makes the dream work. If we are all working together for progress, there is no obstacle too big for us to overcome.

~ Ms. Tara Daniels, English 9 and 10 and Writing 9

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL



OPEN HOUSE

October 26th, 2017 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



80 Willoughby Street Brooklyn, NY 11201 Tel: 718-624-3618

Web: stjosephhighschool.org Email: admin@sjhsbridge.org

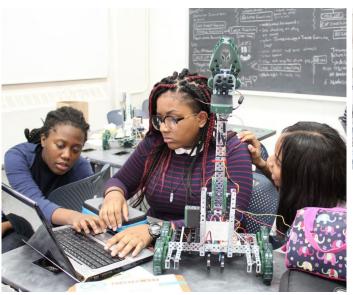
St. Joseph High School is a place of community, where young women from all over Brooklyn come together, challenging one another to excel academically, socially and spiritually. While becoming compassionate leaders, our students meet compelling and helpful mentors and caring teachers, and form lifelong friendships with one another. Through an affordable and rigorous Catholic education they discover more deeply their life goals and develop a strong sense of purpose, going on from SJHS to four year colleges and lives as working professional women.

Sc 100





Summer of STEAM at St. Joseph's





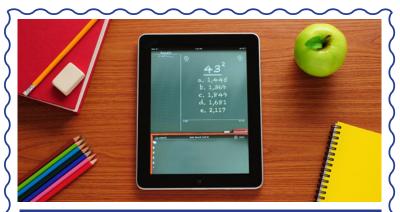


NYU Robotics Summer Camp









St. Joseph High School is now an iPad 1:1 school!

Students can read textbooks, take notes, and complete excercises and activities on their SJHS iPads.

Accompanied by Ms. Green and Mr. St. Louis, several SJHS students participated in a two week robotic design course, funded by the National Science Foundation and sponsored by the NYU Tandon School of Engineering.

During this course, they learned the fundamentals of how to build a robot, and how to program that robot to complete various tasks, navigate obstacles and more.

The teachers who attended also participated in Robotics education professional development, where they learned lots of methods and techniques for teaching similar courses at their own campuses. Mr. St. Louis and Ms. Green bring these skills back to SJHS where they will be able to implement what they learned in our Engineering and FabLab courses.

During the two week couse our students encountered many challenges, due to being completely new to the subject matter. However, they were able to work in synergy to accomplish every task, showing diligence, resilience, and a willingness to push through difficulties toward success.

By the end they built a working robot that could complete all the assigned challenges!

Mr. Mobijohn Goes to Camp!



This summer Mr. Mobijohn went to camp! At Camp Invention, a K-4th grade summer camp developed by the National Inventors Hall of Fame and hosted by St. Bernadette's Catholic Academy in Dyker Heights, Mr. Mobijohn taught the "Take Apart" class. In this class, kids bring in old electronics from home - watches, phones, radios, DVD players and more - and they learn how to take them apart and understand what they find inside. In addition to safety-first procedures, the class introduces kids to basic tools such as screwdrivers, pliers and wrenches, and teaches them the basics of circuitry using a battery, wires and a light.

One of the most exciting moments for Mr. Mobijohn was when a little girl, taking apart a DVD player, found a motor inside and thought of hooking it up to the battery. When the motor started spinning, she was amazed, and her amazement was contagious; soon all the kids were searching for motors in their devices and using them to add on to the projects they were building. Mr. Mobijohn was blown away by the lack of fear of the children as they tried new things and tested out their new knowledge and skills.

Activities like the "Take Apart" class at Camp Invention are crucial for education, in Mr. Mobijohn's experience, because they teach students how to discover innovative new pathways through obstacles they encounter. The innocence and curiosity of the kids at Camp Invention their energy, excitement, and sense of wonder as they came to understand the ways the world works, and their capacity to simply and fully embrace and love what they are doing, brought Mr. Mobijohn back to SJHS with the desire to seek out and target the inner child in his students here. This year, he hopes to help his students rediscover their latent curiosity, and inspire in them the fearless pursuit of what fascinates them in the world.











Student Spotlights: Alemtsehay Getahun and Jenai Davis



Alemtsehay Getahun arrived in New York City from Ethiopia during the 6th grade. Neither she nor her siblings spoke a word of English, and they faced numerous obstacles while acclimating to a new language and culture.

Alemtsehay's whole family enrolled in extra English classes and read books constantly, working day and night to adjust to their new life. Alemtsehay also watched the Disney Channel regularly, trying to pick up new idioms and phrases and improve her pronunciation. Because she was very good at Math, she kept advancing with her grade level in school, and in the middle of 7th grade, after over a year of intense study and practice, she tested at her grade level in English, her first of many victories.

As she got ready to apply to high school, Alemtsehay was accepted into a program with SSP (Student Sponsor Partners), an organization that partners with promising students and their families to place them in excellent local schools and help fund their high school education. As an SSP student, Alemtsehay came to St. Joseph High School, looking forward to the close-knit Catholic community and the challenging academics.

This past year, as a Junior, Alemtsehay completed two internships, one at Breakfast with Alice, a creative brand marketing consultancy, and the other through Futures and Options, a non-profit that pairs underserved youth with local businesses in order to help them explore career possibilities, grow in work-readiness, and gain access to the economic mainstream.

During the school year, attending school every day and then going to her internship four afternoons a week, Alemtsehay quickly began to learn time management and prioritization. She grew in her communication skills once again, this time drafting professional emails to sponsors and clients, updating websites and social media accounts, and most importantly sharing her accomplishments and goals each week at the company meetings. These meetings were challenging and intimidating at first, but over time Alemtsehay gained the confidence to share her ideas and speak her mind.

But internships were not the only major achievement of her Junior year. Alemtsehay was also nominated through SSP to apply for the Peter M. Flanigan scholarship, which awards students \$40,000 over 4 years toward their college education. Students are nominated based on grades and test scores and the application involves a lengthy personal essay and an interview by a panel of five SSP representatives. Alemtsehay shared the story of her personal journey from her childhood in Ethiopia to her teen years in New York City, and her hard work, perseverance and academic excellence deeply impressed the panel. She was awarded the scholarship - the first ever that a student from SJHS has received this honor.

While Alemtsehay's love for math has remained, and she is considering studying Engineering in future, she is now also an avid reader and writer, and her favorite subject at SJHS is English. When it comes to college, Alemtsehay is open to what the future brings and where her many interests guide her.

Internship at Through Our Lens, Inc.



"Through Our Lens was a great opportunity for me and still is. Even though I am a senior, I still am a bit lost on what I want to do with my life. But the internship has opened up a new option for me. I always had an interest in photography but it's something that I never thought to make a career out of. I've learned how to adjust a camera, which has led me to take better photos. I have also gained some

networking tips in regards to fashion and business. I am truly thankful to Ms.Schaeffer for this opportunity."



- Jenai Davis, Class of 2018

What is Through Our Lens?

"Through Our Lens, Inc. (TOL) empowers high-school-aged girls to use photography not only as a medium to build self-esteem and nurture creativity, but also to build portfolios and develop professional relationships within the fashion industry. TOL's programming includes a balance of practical skill development and application, industry education, and mentorship to ensure girls acquire the well rounded experiences needed to be successful as aspiring fashion professionals."

For more, visit www.throughourlensnyc.org

Ready, Set, GO! Summer Readiness for Incoming Students

Summer Readiness is a ten day program for incoming Freshwomen that aims to acclimate the students to the culture of St. Joseph High School. This summer the students took English, Math and Study Skills classes, and discussed the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph; all three classes were designed to form a foundation for students' future classes.









- biomythographies and collages that they presented

on the final day, based on Audre Lorde's biomythog-

raphy, Zami, A New Spelling of my Name, titled "How

I Became a Poet." The students took one trip outside

of school to see the We Wanted A Revolution: Black

Above: Students read from their biomythographies at the closing of the Summer Readiness Program

Right: Students at the Brooklyn Museum's Exhibit - We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women 1965-85



BROOKLY

The Technology Department arranged for the students to have one day of technology instruction. The students were split into two groups, one receiving instruction from MOUSE and the second spending the day in the FabLab. In English, students were exposed to what it means to read a text deeply and that includes images as well. They wrote short poems and pieces about themselves and their lives which culminated in longer pieces -





"CSJ it Forward" Student Leaders in Mission

From July 11th-13th, student leaders from SJHS and Fontbonne Hall Academy attended a retreat at St. Joseph's Villa in Hampton Bays, NY. The retreat, organized by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, challenged attendees to transform their communities through the CSJ mission of unity, reconciliation and all-inclusive love. Students discussed paths to female empowerment and environmental justice, and had the opportunity to grow in their relationships with one another and with Jesus through prayer, conversation, a nature walk, working together on an art project, and more.



Faculty Weddings!



L: **Mr. Dennis Kallo** married his college sweetheart **Ms. Marissa Costello** on August 6th at Regina Pacis Basilica in Brooklyn, NY

R. **Ms. Chantee Paris** married **Mr. Stephen Stringle** on July 29th at Marine Park Golf Course in Brooklyn, NY

St. Joseph High School wishes both newly married couples the best as they embark on this new journey together.

September 29th Back to School Dance

For Hurricane Relief with LaSalle Academy. All funds raised will be donated to rebuilding Catholic schools and hospitals damaged in

the recent hurricanes

September 29th Junior retreat at Adventure Park in

Long Island

October 6th Sophomore Retreat Day

October 12th Hispanic Heritage Celebration for

students after school, 3:15 PM

October 20th Freshwomen Retreat

October 26th Open House

For Prospective Students!



Mark Your Calendar!