

Lowell High School Highlights

2018-19 Semester One

Winter Greetings! As the adjustment period that always comes with the beginning of a new academic school year has faded, our new and former High School students and staff have found their “groove” and the magic of The Lowell School family is unmistakable! Walking through the building clearly shows authentic classroom communities, established routines, rigor, and high expectations. Students are working diligently and enjoying newfound friendships and relationships. Our dedicated and supportive staff has creatively modified and enhanced the curriculum while focusing on motivating, supporting, and challenging each student.

It was wonderful to see the many parents who joined us during the Meet & Greet and Senior Parent Meetings, Parent/ Teacher Conferences, and our first PA Meeting. I thank you for taking the time to meet with us to discuss the many ways we can work together to support the students throughout the school day and beyond.

Our first semester has been jam-packed with learning, as well as with many activities:

- An energized and fun Walk-a-Thon to help support our Arts program
- National Honor Society induction ceremony
- After School Program for academic remediation, skill building, and Regents preparation
- Clubs, Sports, and even a “Pep Rally”
- Picture Day
- Grease* auditions and practices
- Chorus rehearsals
- Town Hall Meeting, school elections, and the formation of our new Student Government
- School Fundraisers- Cherrydale Sale, Lowell Clothing Sale, Bake Sales, Chocolate Sales
- High School Visit for 7th and 8th grade students and their families
- Spirit Days
- Food Drive, Coat Drive, Toy Drive, Pet Drive
- League of Women Voters Workshop; ACCESS VR meetings; SAT administration

National Honor Society- In October, The Lowell School inducted this year's students into the National Honor Society, the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. The National Honor Society serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments but also challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

After School Clubs & Sports- Session I: 10/29/18- 1/17/19
(Session II: 3/27/19- 6/10/19)

After School Session I included:

- Regents Prep- Extra Help in English, Living Environment, Global History, and Math
- Game Club
- Computer/Coding Club
- Art Club

Sports: As members of the Metro League, we participate in the following interscholastic sports: Soccer (Fall), Boys' and Girls' Basketball (Winter), Softball (Spring), and Track and Field (Spring). We had a fun soccer season, with great competition and teamwork. We are currently enjoying our basketball season.

Fencing Program: Students are developing agility, speed, strategic thinking, and confidence.

Musical Production- GREASE! Auditions were held and the cast began rehearsing in November. Our annual musical production is a major undertaking, with approximately 50 students participating in the cast, stagecraft, and stage crew. Danny Zuko, Sandy Dumbrowski, Betty, Frenchy, Marty, and the entire cast cannot wait to entertain you! Please join us on May 16, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., as we go back to 1959 and share the fun characters of Rydell High School.

Student Government- After creative campaigning, an informative Town Hall Meeting, and student elections, our 2018-19 Lowell Student Government was elected. Their goal is to promote involvement, leadership and to give back to our school and community. Students work with the staff and administration.

The new council represents our student body and is designed to give students a voice. They have already held numerous fundraisers, such as the Halloween bake sale. Student government sponsored the pumpkin decorating contest and scary story contest, the Thanksgiving food drive, and collected toys for the children at St. Mary's Children Hospital. They also planned and hosted the winter dance.

Pumpkin Contest and Scary Stories-

Our Annual Pumpkin Contest challenged students and staff to collaborate on a theme, execute a plan, and creatively decorate pumpkins. From the silly Olaf to a lovable elephant, each class found a unique way to get into the Halloween spirit and work as a team! The winning pumpkin was the intricate "Up-House", created by Room 321.

Our Scary Story contest brought out the competition for imaginative fiction. Original works of fantasy, science fiction, mystery, and horror were created as students worked together to tell a good scary story. Entries included *Billie, My Love*, written by Room 321, who chillingly won first place!

Thanksgiving Feast- The Lowell School continued its tradition, celebrating Thanksgiving with a delicious feast that included all the holiday trimmings. Students and staff joined together to reflect, to be grateful, to share and to give, as we celebrated our Lowell School Family!

Student Outreach- The mission of Club Outreach is to help those in need, from people to animals. This Club helps students see outside themselves and to understand that there are ways to help those who are less fortunate. This year began by collecting coats for the New York Cares coat drive. In addition, holiday sales raised money for North Shore Animal League. Thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

"Make America Safe", produced by the New York Film Academy- Many of our students participated in the filming of scenes of Blanche Baker's, *Make America Safe*, a movie musical about a hypothetical world in the near future, as high school students question the validity of the

concept that a fully armed citizenry helps keep everyone safe. Blanche Baker, the mother of one of our students, is an Emmy Award-winning actress, writer, director, and senior faculty member of the New York Film Academy. The movie musical was filmed by Piero Basso, an award-winning Director of Photography and Chair of Cinematography at the New York Film Academy, and scored by musical composer Andy Peterson.

Interested students, with parental permission, worked with Daniel Lincoln, Music Supervisor from the New York Film Academy, choreographer Courtney Lane Selfe, cinematographer Piero Basso, and line producer Jessica Fernando. Students had lessons and instruction in dance and singing, as well as a hands-on introduction to filmmaking. They experienced behind the scenes interaction with an international cast of music theater students, alongside the New York Film Academy's faculty and staff of professional artists and crew members. It was an amazing that our students will never forget!

W.A.G.E. - (Work and Gain Experience) Some of our senior students are working at job sites outside of the school as part of the W.A.G.E. Program. Students are working at Old Navy, Marshall's, Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home, a horticultural program at the Quaker Meeting House, and two new sites this year, Petco and the Outback Steakhouse. In school, students assist with the breakfast and lunch programs, work in the school library, and in the computer room. Students run the recycling program, working under the tutelage of our school custodians.

Through these and other volunteer opportunities, our students are afforded the opportunity to develop vocational skills, acquire a sense of responsibility, and gain familiarity with the demands that will be required of them in the workplace.

Career Planning Events- Our seniors have been actively working on completing their college applications with our College Advisor/Transition Coordinator, Jessica Gregoretti. Many have moved on to completing their Federal and State Financial Aid Forms (FAFSA and TAP). ACCES-VR representatives were invited to Lowell to provide a general overview of their program, and students have begun the process of completing applications and attending intakes.

Juniors had the option in late October to take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test). Scores were reviewed with each student in late December. The review consisted of scores, strengths, areas that need to be developed, and how to utilize this information for future post-secondary planning. Parents are encouraged to call Mrs. Gregoretti if they would like to discuss their child's score or have any questions regarding transition planning.

Transition planning occurs throughout the year, for freshman and sophomores as well. During English classes, Mrs. Gregoretti recently spoke about creating goals and career planning. Sophomore students watched videos on what college and vocational schools are about, which helped them to better understand the expectations of each institution and the differences between them. Freshmen students reviewed the importance of self-advocacy, organization, and getting involved in their school and community.

Save the date!

Our College and Career Fair is on March 12, 2019, from 11:30-1:30.

Students are encouraged to attend.

Computers- Our Computer Technology program is state of the art! We have desktop computers, 3D printers, iPads, laptops, and special programs and software, such as robotics, coding, and pixel art.

During Computer Science Education Week (December 3-9), our juniors and students in the Robotics classes participated in the global "Hour of Code" event, working on computer coding and pixel art. Students learned different coding concepts, such as using visual blocks, graph paper coding, using spreadsheets to create pixels, and the history of pixels through video games. A contest was held to see which student could create the most lines of code. Congratulations to the winners.

In the Computer Applications class, seniors focused on career exploration and took skill interest assessments about their aspirations, activities, skills, and interests. They created PowerPoint presentations and presented to their peers. Students also worked on their resumes and personal brochures.

Art: Freshman and Sophomore students explored a variety of artistic media, including drawing, painting, two-dimensional design, sculpture, graphic design, printmaking, fiber art, and collage. Students in individual art focused on art enrichment, while some worked on their portfolios to prepare for acceptance to higher education.

Our Freshmen explored color and texture by creating abstract tempera paintings. They made cityscape drawings on painted watercolor paper. Students designed images and transferred them to flat sponges for printmaking. They also sculpted beautiful life-like clay birds.

Sophomores created abstract designs using fiber and glue. Using new iPads, they researched famous artists and gave oral presentations, accompanied by artwork inspired by the artist.

In Individual Art, students worked on projects, both self and teacher directed, such as printmaking, clay, silkscreen printing, and painting. Art Club is customized to the interests and abilities of the students. The students created corrugated masks, silkscreened t-shirts, canvas paintings and decorations for the Lowell Holiday Show.

Music: Freshman student classes created, composed, and performed an original musical in class. Students decided on a theme, created characters, developed a storyline and script, and wrote lyrics to partially completed songs. They learned about the difference between stage right and stage left, when the overture is played in a musical, the meaning of orchestration, and many other facts related to the stage.

Sophomore students are learning to play the keyboard. They are also learning to read notes and to interpret the grand staff, time signatures, treble and bass clefs, repeat signs, sharps, and flats.

In individual music, students are learning to play guitar, keyboard, and some are receiving voice lessons. Other students are learning to play the drums and examining beat and rhythm, including rhythmic and metric patterns.

Holiday Show- This year's celebration showcased a variety of Lowell talent. Our extraordinary chorus performed in beautiful harmony. In addition, the audience enjoyed magnificent voices, an original song, comedy, dancing, and an inspirational poem with good wishes for all!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

JANUARY 2019

- 1/17/19: After School Session I Ends
- 1/18/19: **Second Marking Period Ends**
- 1/21/19: School Closed
- 1/22/19: **REGENTS- ELA, Living Environment**
- 1/23/19: **REGENTS- Algebra I, U.S. History & Gov't.**
- 1/24/19: **REGENTS-Transition Exam-
U.S. History & Gov't.**
- 1/25/19: **Third Marking Period Begins**

FEBRUARY 2019

- 2/5/19: School Closed
- 2/8/19: Ring Order Day- Juniors
- 2/16/19 - 2/24/19: School Closed

MARCH 2019

- 3/1/19: Food Drive Begins
- 3/5/19: Staff Development Day (No Students)
- 3/11/19: **Book Fair Begins**
- 3/12/19: Parent-Teacher Conferences, College Fair,
Book Fair Begins
- 3/13/19: Book Fair Ends
- 3/19/19: Soft Ball Team Practice Begins
- 3/20/19: Track & Field Practice Begins
- 3/22/19: Food Drive Ends
- 3/27/19: After School Session II Begins

APRIL 2019

- 4/12/19: **Third Marking Period Ends**
- 4/15/19: **Fourth Marking Period Begins**
- 4/19/19- 4/28/19: School Closed

MAY 2019

- 5/3/19: Science Fair
- 5/6/19 & 5/7/19: SAT Administration
- 5/9/19: Ring Ceremony, Juniors
- 5/16/19: School Musical Production 7:00 P.M.
- 5/23/19: Junior/Senior Prom
- 5/27/19: School Closed

JUNE 2019

- 6/3/19: **REGENTS- New Framework-
Global History & Gov't.**
- 6/4/19: School Closed
- 6/6/19: Staff Development Day (No Students)
- 6/10/17: After School Session II Ends
- 6/11/19: High Honors Luncheon
- 6/13/19: Variety Show 10:00 A.M.
- 6/14/19: Senior Trip
- 6/18/19: **REGENTS- US Hist. & Gov't
Living Environment**
- 6/19/19: **REGENTS- ELA, Algebra I**
- 6/20/19: **REGENTS- Transition Exam-
Global Hist & Gov't**
- 6/21/19: **AWARDS CEREMONY 10:00 A.M.
Fourth Marking Period Ends**
- 6/24/19: NHS, Club Outreach, Student Government Trip
- 6/25/19: Field Day
High Honors Luncheon
- 6/26/19: **GRADUATION 5:00 P.M.**
- 6/27/19: **LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS**
- 6/28/19: **LAST DAY FOR STAFF**

JULY 2019:

- 7/1/19: Summer Program Begins
- 7/4/19: School Closed
- 8/9/19: Summer Program Ends