

CONCENTRATIONS NEWSLETTER

December
2024

1. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to our Academic Concentration Scholars!

Our first cohort has been established. We currently have 23 freshmen enrolled in STEM, Humanities and Civics.

STEM Workshop:

Our STEM students were invited to participate in either *Chemistry Chaos* or *GEARS*, presented by the Westchester STEM Alliance. Our chemists explored the role of catalysts on an exothermic reaction and the elements/chemical structures involved in the creation of Elephant Toothpaste. Our engineers designed robotics attachments like grabbers and wipers, following a structured process of designing, testing, and iterating on their creations. Students experimented with different gear sizes, spacing, ratios, and stabilization strategies, fostering a deeper understanding of gear mechanisms and enhancing their problem-solving skills in the realm of mechanical engineering.

Advocacy 101 Training

Our Civics students attended a presentation by The Westchester Youth Alliance where they learned about identifying community issues, engaging decision makers, developing and spreading messages, creating meeting strategies, and monitoring and evaluating campaigns and advocacy efforts.



2. STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

2024 Medical Career Expo

STEM students interested in the medical field were encouraged to attend the Expo at Northern Westchester Hospital. Penelope Teague was happy that she took advantage of this opportunity and reported that she was able “to learn a lot about the current innovation occurring in the medical industry along with engaging in demonstrations that included performing respiration on a dummy, listening to different heartbeats, and viewing stats and real tumor scans.

Revolution on the Hudson!

Humanities students were encouraged to volunteer at this Living History Experience at Croton Point Park. According to Juliana Albanese, one of the students who attended, “The experience was amazing. Since I was volunteering, I was able to see behind the scenes. I learned a lot about the stories of Joseph Paul Martin, who was just a regular soldier that later created a diary of his young adulthood.”

3. UPCOMING EVENTS

Senator Peter Harckham:

Senator Harckham is visiting CHHS to speak to students in SUNY Public Policy on **December 6th**. Our Civics students were also invited as guests to this presentation. We look forward to learning from Senator Harckham!

The Museum of Mathematics:

CHHS Calculus students are visiting MoMath on **December 18th**. Interested members of the STEM concentration were also invited to attend. We think our students will have fun exploring over 30 interactive exhibits while deepening their understanding of math!

MLK Day of Service on January 17th:

Many of our Humanities students will participate in this day of learning, reflection, and community service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. After attending educational workshops, they will plan a community service project to be completed in March.

Youth Empowerment Council for Change

The Youth Empowerment Council for Change (YECC) of the Westchester County Youth Bureau is a council of youth, who want to promote civic engagement, social justice and youth empowerment. The YECC enables students from diverse backgrounds and across the county to collaborate on the county level and share their unique perspectives. This council is initiative- and project-based, allowing anyone with a vision or goal to spearhead a council project. Under the guidance of the Youth Bureau, it is led by co-presidents and various YECC members who decide to take on leadership roles on projects. All Westchester County youth are welcome to join the YECC. Interested students should email ssw9@westchestercountyny.gov to join their email distribution list.

Details about upcoming events and sign up information are emailed to students, so check your email regularly!

You can also find up-to-date independent opportunities [here](#).

