

# GAHS

## **Gramercy Arts High School**

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**gramercyhs.org**

Pamela Mudzingwa-Makina, Principal

Brian Faughnan, Assistant Principal

We're committed to building a strong, equitable, and purposeful scholarly and artistic community that prepares all students to succeed in a college of their choice, and beyond.

November 2, 2020

Dear Gramercy Arts High School Community,

I would like to thank you for your patience and flexibility during the beginning of the school year. While the beginning was a little rocky, I think that we are finally getting to a point where the three-day cycle is starting to make sense. I would like to thank our teachers and our support staff for the tremendous job that they have been doing. Teaching virtually is new to the world but somehow our teachers have ALL managed to avail themselves to this challenge and are continuously refining their craft to meet the needs of our students. This task is not an easy one and it is one that leads many of us feeling overwhelmed as we strive to do our best. I can attest that there is no better team that I would rather be working with during this pandemic than the dedicated team at Gramercy Arts High School.

Our scholars are showing their resilience in their willingness to engage and to speak up when they are not okay. An example of this has been a concern about spending too much screen time. We are committed to minimizing this and pledge to provide any student, who needs a textbook resource to use at home with this support. This request can be made directly to our teachers and we will ensure that books are ordered and shipped to your homes.

To our families- you have been wonderful. We appreciate the feedback that you continue to provide as it has led to us reconsidering what we are doing. I want to continue to encourage you to log onto Pupil path to see your child's progress and to use this tool to communicate with us as well. We are

partners and, working collaboratively, we will ensure that our scholars are supported during this pandemic. We are currently exploring ways to offer remote students additional structured support during the school day and on Saturdays. I would like to underscore that students have work to do daily. **Even when students are not scheduled to see their teachers, they have tasks to do.** Please be mindful of other responsibilities that you might assign during regular school day times when students have Google classroom work or can sign up for office hours, as missing this time may lead to them falling behind.

**Please note our Parent Teacher conferences will take place next week:**

Thursday November 12, 2020 - Evening Session – 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friday November 13, 2020 - Evening Session – 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

In addition, we are offering a host of clubs. Please encourage your child to sign up. This is a great way to stay connected.

**GAHS CLUBS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES, 2020-2021**

Club Name	Club Adviser	Adviser Email	Meeting Time	Club Description (to be shared on website and with families)
<b>Crochet Club</b>	Ms. Persaud	mpersaud@gramercyhs.org	Wednesdays, 3:00-4:30 pm	In Crochet Club, students will embrace and express their creativity while learning the art of crocheting. Using a crochet hook and lots of yarn, students can learn to create anything from scarfs to sock puppets!
<b>Film club</b>	Mr. Stewart	cstewart@gramercyhs.org	Wednesdays, 3:00-3:30 pm, plus screening times	Film club will host virtual screenings of movies decided by club membership, as well as discussions and opportunities for students to share their own filmmaking projects.
<b>Anime &amp; Manga</b>	Mr. Kim	mskim@gramercyhs.org	Fridays, 3:00-4:30 pm	Anime & Manga club dives into Japanese animation and graphic novel culture, the influence of Japanese animation and graphic novels in today's pop culture, and participate in events and conventions tailored for anime and manga.

<b>Fashion and Makeup</b>	Ms. Shepherd	nshepherd@gramercyhs.org	Thursdays, 3:00-4:30 pm	"Fashion and Makeup" is inclusive to all points of view about fashion and makeup: we are open and curious. "Fashion and Makeup" is a safe, feel-good space for everybody.
<b>Yearbook</b>	Ms. McCasland	lmccasland@gramercyhs.org	Wednesdays, 3pm-4pm	Build a yearbook and build your legacy! Students edit, contribute content and help with the publication of the 2020-2021 GAHS yearbook.
<b>Fall Play</b>	Mrs. del Nido	jdelnido@gramercyhs.org	Weekly rehearsal schedule for cast	Our fall play this year is "10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine"! Look out for our video performance coming in December! While casting is already complete, we look forward to seeing everyone in the audience!
<b>YG- Equity</b>	Ms. Louisdhon	llouisdhon@gramercyhs.org	Wednesdays & Thursdays, 4:00 -5:00 pm	Students will explore skills and strategies to learn how to become an influencer in their communities and be empowered to strengthen their leadership, power, and voices in the school community.
<b>Architecture Club</b>	Mr. Mohammad	amohammad@gramercyhs.org	Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 pm	The goal of the Architectural Design Club is to establish and maintain a community of peers with a common interest in architecture and design. We wish to make the fields of architecture and design accessible. Over the course of the school year students will learn the foundations of architectural design and create their dream eco-friendly communities.
<b>Stay Woke Club</b>	Ms. Akingba	aakingba@gramercyhs.org	Tuesdays	Stay informed on issues in our community, what you can do to express your voice, and how to stay informed about issues and events.
<b>Book Club</b>	Tamsin Pargiter	tpargiter@cgsh.com	Fridays 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Book Club! This is a time honored high school tradition that our partners at the Cleary Foundation are sharing with us. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with literature and have a vibrant community of students like you to discuss and learn with. Best part of all – it is a break from screen time!

Finally, as per our Chancellor, we want to share more information and guidance on the blended learning opt-in window for families. The process outlined below will be the **only opt-in** window for families this school year, through the last day of the 2020-2021 school year.

### **Monday, November 2 – Sunday, November 15: Blended Learning Opt-In Window for Families**

- Families requesting to change from 100% remote to blended learning should complete and submit the [Learning Preference survey](#) during this window.
- Schools will be able to review individual students' updated learning preference on a rolling basis during this window.
- ***Please know that completely remote students that are currently struggling will be scheduled for Supplemental Support Sessions for the classes in which they are struggling***

### **Weeks of November 30 & December 7: Students Begin In-Person Learning**

Updates can be found at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020>.

Please look out for an invite to town halls where you will be able to ask questions. I am also going to be hosting time slots for staff, parents and students to sign up to have lunch with me.

I wish you and your family the best of health and hope that you practice self-care. Please note that we are committed to your child's wellbeing and success.

*"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it. – Marianne Williamson*

Sincerely,

Pamela Mudzingwa-Makina  
Principal